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Please amend the claims as follows:

1 and 2. (Previously cancelled)

3 and 4. (Currently cancelled)

5. (Previously cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18 wherein said liquid composition containing active chlorine are is thickened with a soluble or water-dispersible polymer selected from homo- or co-polymers of acrylic acid or homo- or co-polymers of cross-linked acrylic acid.

7-8. Previously cancelled)

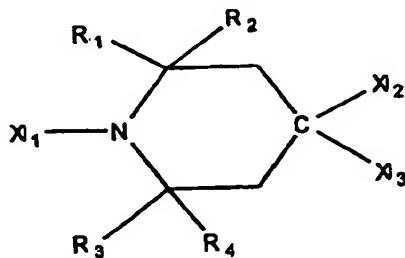
9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the amount of active chlorine is between 0.5-10% by weight and the amount of stabilizer is between 0.005% and 3% by weight.

10-16. (Previously cancelled)

17. Previously added) A liquid composition for domestic and industrial cleaning containing an alkali or alkaline earth hypochlorite stabilized according to the method of Claim 18.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing the viscosity and/or the active chlorine content of a liquid composition containing alkali or alkaline earth hypochlorites comprising the addition to said composition of 0.001% to 5% of a compound belonging to the class of hindered amines of the general formula (I)

Formula I



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 , which may be the same or different, represent methyl or ethyl; X_1 represents an oxygen atom, an $-OH$ group or an OR_5 group, wherein R_5 represents linear or branched alkyl C_1-C_4 or cyclohexyl; X_2 represents hydrogen and X_3 represents the groups $-OH$ or NHR_5 wherein R_5 has the meaning describe above; or X_2 and X_3 , taken together, represent an oxygen atom.